

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 488
By Head

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Austin Peay State University womens' basketball team coach LaDonna McClain on her selection as Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, each year, after a through examination of the qualifications of each of the possible candidates, one is chosen as the Ohio Valley Conference womens' basketball team Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 honoree for this prestigious recognition was a clear choice, LaDonna McClain, head coach of the excellent Austin Peay State University womens' basketball team. It was the first time an APSU Coach had won this honor; and

WHEREAS, the Anderson, Missouri native was an all-state player at McDonald County High School, helping to establish that school as one of Missouri's best by leading it to two state championships and a runner-up finish. She also played in the Missouri All-Star game during her senior season; and

WHEREAS, Coach McClain was a standout basketball player at Missouri Southern State College where she earned a much deserved reputation as a hard worker and great clutch player. Her very impressive statistics included being a four year starter, being the school's ninth all-time leading scorer and being ranked in the top ten in the important categories of steals, free-throw percentage, assists, field-goal percentage, games played and rebounds; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her tremendous contribution to the team, she was selected team captain her senior year and was chosen to the all-district and all-conference teams. She was a valued member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and also received the prestigious Lion Backer Award during her senior year for outstanding work in the community and her athletic accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, her brilliant coaching career started in 1987, at her alma mater, where she began as a student assistant to Coach Jim Phillips, while completing her undergraduate requirements; and

WHEREAS, after graduating she turned down two high school head coaching positions to pursue her master's degree and collegiate coaching at APSU; and

WHEREAS, Coach McClain was named interim head coach at Austin Peay on August 25, 1990 and head coach on April 4, 1991; and

WHEREAS, under her able tutelage this season, the Lady Governors won their first ever Ohio Valley Conference regular season co-championship, with a school record 13-3 league mark; and

WHEREAS, they also won their first ever OVC Tournament title, beating Eastern Kentucky 70-56 and Middle Tennessee State University 69-60; and

WHEREAS, this memorable squad also recorded the most ever victories (21), with just 8 losses, a fine winning percentage of .720; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Governors made their first ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in her six seasons as head coach at Austin Peay, Coach McClain has built a team of players with good character, ready to be winners off the court as well as on; and

WHEREAS, Coach McClain is an excellent motivator and recruiter, as evidenced by the numerous prep all-staters and top junior college players she has recruited during her tenure, including an All-American; and

WHEREAS, in Lady Gov's history only five players have scored more than 1,000 points and three of those (Georgie Vaughan, Carrie Thompson and Sonia Cox) are McClain recruits; and

WHEREAS, a tireless worker, Coach McClain has won over both the Austin Peay and Clarksville communities, with her positive attitude and eagerness, and as a result the attendance at games has gone up each of the last five years; and

WHEREAS, she and her husband, Andy, were married on August 12, 1995; and

WHEREAS, in her spare time she enjoys running, playing competitive sports and spending time with her family. Coach McClain is also actively involved in volunteer work, including the Special Olympics, the Cancer Society, the FCA, the United Way, Big Brothers-Big Sisters and various homeless shelters in the Clarksville-Montgomery County area; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this special coach; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach LaDonna McClain on being chosen Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year and on her many other accomplishments and wish her well in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.